

# the guardian weekly

May 2012

**Level » Advanced**

**Style » Individual or group activities**



Welcome to the Guardian Weekly's special news-based materials to support learners and teachers of English. Each month, the Guardian Weekly newspaper selects topical news articles that can be used to practise English language skills. The materials are graded for two levels: Advanced and Lower Intermediate. These worksheets can be downloaded free from [guardian.co.uk/weekly/](http://guardian.co.uk/weekly/). You can also find more advice for teachers and learners from the Guardian Weekly's Learning English section on the site.

**Materials prepared by Janet Hardy-Gould**

## Ghanaian girls take off with flight training opportunities



Pilot project ... Lydia Wetsi, 16, at the controls of a light aircraft AvTech

### Before reading

- 1 The article is about flying light aircraft in Ghana. Match these words from the text to the definitions, right.

- a ☐ the bush
- b ☐ crops
- c ☐ impoverished
- d ☐ infrastructure
- e ☐ relief
- f ☐ rural
- g ☐ plantation

- 1 very poor; without money
- 2 wild country that has not been cleared
- 3 related to the countryside; not the city
- 4 plants grown in large quantities for food
- 5 food etc given when there is a natural disaster
- 6 a large area of land in a hot country where crops are grown
- 7 the basic structures of a country eg roads, railways

- 2 In groups, look at the map of Ghana on Page 4 then discuss the questions on the next page. Use some of the words from exercise 1.

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**a** Why do you think flying light aircraft is important in Ghana?

**b** What are the particular uses of light aircraft in some areas of the country?

**c** Who do you think might fly the aircraft?

## Article

### Ghanaian girls take off with flight training opportunities

- 1 In a clearing 50km east of Ghana's capital, Accra, a group of young women aged 16-20 are sliding shut the heavy metal doors of an airport hangar. They are students at AvTech, the Aviation and Technology Academy Ghana, a school with the unusual aim of bringing light aviation to impoverished rural Ghana.
- 2 "What people haven't realised is the use of aviation in developing nations," said chief flying instructor Jonathan Porter.
- 3 Porter is an English engineer who brought his own light aircraft to Ghana, together with his household belongings.
- 4 "Flying has always been seen as the domain of Americans and Europeans, but I saw the need for light aviation which didn't focus on expats," he said. "People just don't realise what aeroplanes can do affordably."
- 5 The potential for light aircraft to play a role in development has long been recognised in Ghana. In 1962 independence leader Kwame Nkrumah founded sub-Saharan Africa's first flying school.
- 6 "Nkrumah was smart - he realised that the best way to get from A to B in a country with poor infrastructure was to fly," said Porter. "And for the young women we are training as engineers and pilots, there is a viable career for them in agriculture, aerial surveillance of crops, selecting irrigation routes and plantation work."
- 7 The use of light aviation in development and

disaster relief is well established but AvTech says it wants to move away from flying foreign aid workers in, and instead train local women to become specialists.

- 8 WAASPS, the social enterprise wing of the project, capitalises on the demand for flying among Ghana's growing pool of high net-worth individuals by building the \$80,000 planes to order, and by giving private flying lessons. The company uses the profits to subsidise training for the AvTech students - poor girls from local villages.
- 9 AvTech is run by Mawuli, a fisherman's daughter who implored Porter to train her after she saw his plane fly overhead while cutting trees in the bush. "I started out cutting trees from the runway with a machete, and today I'm a pilot and an aeroplane engineer. That is spectacular," she said. "And it is a gateway for other young women who also want to be adventurous and do something different."

**Afua Hirsch**

## Glossary

**expat** (noun, informal) - a person living in a country that is not their own. The word is an abbreviation of "expatriate".

**aerial surveillance** (noun) when something is watched and monitored from the air

**wing** (noun) a section of an organisation that has a particular function

**high net-worth individuals** (phrase) rich people

**implore** (verb, formal) to ask someone to do something in an anxious way because you need or want it very much

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## While reading

### 1 Read the article. Make notes about the training school under these headings.

**a** Name/location of the training school

**b** Main aims of school

**c** Target students

**d** Future employment for students

**e** Where the training money comes from

**f** School run by

### 2 Read the text again and complete the sentences.

**a** Until now expats have traditionally done most of ...

**b** In 1962, the first sub-Saharan flying school was ...

**c** The infrastructure in some areas makes it difficult to ...

**d** The students at AvTech train to be both ...

**e** In the event of a disaster, AvTech no longer wants to ...

**f** The number of wealthy people in Ghana is ...

**g** The head of AvTech wanted to learn to fly when ...

### 3 Work with a partner and discuss these questions with reference to the article. Then share your ideas with the rest of the class.

**a** What do you think are the positive aspects of this new scheme?

**b** Do you think it could be transferred to other countries? Why?/Why not?

## After reading

### 1 Vocabulary related to training

Complete the text with these words.

aims, career, demand, gateway, pool, private, project, subsidised

The AvTech training school is a

(a)  to the world of

work for young women and it

(b)  to provide

students with a viable

(c)  in aviation.

The growing (d)  of qualified students will meet the increasing

(e)  for pilots in rural

parts of the country. The cost of the training is

(f)  by a separate

wing of the (g)  which

builds planes and gives

(h)  flying lessons to

rich individuals.

### 2 Defining relative clauses

Look at these examples of defining relative clauses from the article.

Porter is an English engineer **who brought his own light aircraft to Ghana** ... (paragraph 3)

... I saw the need for light aviation **which didn't focus on expats** ... (paragraph 4)



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Complete each of the sentences. Use one of the endings below and change it into a relative clause beginning with **who, which, where or whose**.

**a** AvTech is a unique training school

**b** Nkrumah was one of the first people

**c** There is a growing number of Ghanaians

**d** The students receive training

**e** The young women often fly to rural areas

**f** Mawuli is a pilot and engineer

... he recognised the importance of flying in Ghana.

... young Ghanaian women can learn to fly there.

... her first job was to clear the runway.

... it will help them to get a viable career.

... their net-worth is very high.

... the infrastructure is very poor there.

**In which sentences can you also use the relative pronoun "that"?**

## Activity - presentation

**Do you have a skills shortage in your country in a certain field? Work in small groups to develop an**

**idea for a training school. You will present your plan to a government committee (your class).**

**a** Copy the headings from While reading exercise 1. Complete it with ideas for your new training school.

**b** Plan and write a presentation to pitch your ideas to the rest of the class. Use vocabulary from After reading exercise 1.

**c** Give your presentation to the class. The other students ask questions.

**d** Vote on the best training school idea.

## Map of Ghana



## Answers

Before reading

**1a 2b 4c 1d 7e 5f 3g 6**

**2 Possible answers** **a** It's a large country and the infrastructure isn't good in some impoverished rural areas.

**b** They can survey or spray crops and plantations. They can also carry disaster relief or transport people out to the bush.

**c** Students own answers.

While reading

**1a** AvTech. 50km east of Accra. **b** To bring light aviation to rural Africa; to train locals and move away from using expat pilots. **c** Local young women. **d** Agriculture, including the aerial surveillance of crops, selecting irrigation routes, plantation work. **e** From building planes and giving flying lessons to wealthy

Ghanaians. **f** Mawuli, who has worked her way up from looking after the runway. **2a** the flying in Africa. **b** founded by Kwame Nkrumah. **c** get from A to B/travel around. **d** engineers and pilots. **e** fly in foreign aid workers. **f** growing. **g** she saw Porter's plane fly overhead.

After reading

**1a** gateway **b** aims **c** career **d** pool **e** demand **f** subsidised **g** project **h** private

**2a** ... where young women can learn to fly.

**b** ... who recognised the importance of flying in Ghana.

**c** ... whose net-worth is very high.

**d** ... which will help them to get a viable career.

**e** ... where the infrastructure is very poor.

**f** ... whose first job was to clear the runway.

**b** and **d** can take that